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## **Governor Schwarzenegger's Office of Economic Development (GoED) Attends Grand Opening of Revolutionary Solar Panel Facility**

*GoED Will Provide Assistance to AQT Solar to Help Improve State's Business Climate*

Sunnyvale, CA –Governor's Office of Economic Development (GoED) Director Joel Ayala today attended the grand opening of AQT Solar's manufacturing facility in Sunnyvale, California. AQT is revolutionizing the solar industry by making it possible to deposit solar material on thin pieces of square glass to create a solar panel.

"AQT's grand opening is a win for California on the solar energy, job creation and economic development fronts," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Thanks to California's nation-leading energy policies, we are becoming a global leader in the environmental arena. With companies like this, we are able to show others that we can build tomorrow's future industries while making a positive environmental impact here in California and around the world."

AQT has created a process by which the company is able to produce very low-cost drop -in replacements for conventional silicon cells. The company does this by using the production-proven manufacturing platform of Intevac, a leader in high-productivity manufacturing equipment and AQT's business partner. This will significantly reduce the cost of the production of solar panels and further cement California's role as a green innovator and job creator.

Recently, AQT received \$10 million from private sources, which has brought their manufacturing facility online. The company is already working to meet customer orders of 20 MW and is preparing to conduct the first customer installation for a gated community in Baja, Mexico. The company will fill 40 positions in this first growth phase and will add 150 full time employees by 2011.

"AQT Solar is proud to be a part of California's strong history of innovation, which is now driving the growth of the solar industry," said Michael Bartholomeusz, CEO, AQT Solar. "We look forward to building our business in the heart of Silicon Valley and continuing to bring more green jobs to the Golden State."

GoED, created earlier this year to help people start, grow or keep their business in California, will be providing site location assistance for AQT Solar's second facility. The second facility has been designed to produce about 1GW of cells annually and will require 250,000 square feet.

"The grand opening of AQT is a clear indicator that California is open for business and that government can play a positive role in helping businesses," said GoED Director Ayala. "Not only are we helping

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businesses expand but we are increasing California's global share of a fast-growing industry. And, we look forward to helping other businesses out there do the same."

*The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GoED) was launched by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to help stimulate and facilitate economic growth across the state. GoEd serves as a one-stop shop for business needs and can offer assistance, resources, and other tools to assist with the creation, expansion and retention of businesses. GoED's mission is to make it easier to do business in the state.*

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